FREW & CAMPBELL,

WEDNESDAY MORNING, PEBRUARY IS

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE. Observations at the National Capital What Congress is Delug-

WASHINGTON, February 16, 1880.

consideration. The most extreme

tion, when I first visited Washington.

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

lexion quite is bloodless, and his eyes

is to-day the sole survivor of the House of

Representatives as I then looked upon it.

And speaking of this remarkable man, I

must digress far enough to refer to a visit

that I made to his rooms at the National

Hotel the other evening. Col. T. P. Shall-

cross, of Wheeling, is an old friend of

Stephens, and he too has rooms at the

National when here on Postoffice duty.

He plays whist with the old man very

frequently, and he said to me, as I mel him at the office of the National, "don't

you want to go up and see Stephens?"

Of course I did, and so I went up at once

It was about 9 o'clock in the evening, and

the game of whist was over, but the old

man was still in his rolling chair in his

bed room, sitting there with his hat on, a hand on either wheel and moving him-

self gently back and forward, as it seeking

impresses you at first as a very old man,

withered and bloodless in his appear

ance, but when he begins to talk and you

get the range of his bright eyes, and listen

to his easy conversation, this impression

derful memory in regard to public affairs and of the vigor and keenness of his dis-

ussion of them. He was in a good talk-

ing mood during our visit and delivered imself somewhat on Presidential matters.

He abominates Tilden, and does not think

the Democracy can carry New York either

with or without Tilden. He prefers John

Sherman to Tilden, if we are to have a

ontinuation of the present financial pol

cy, because, as he says, Sherman is an

nester man. He spoke of Presidential

political conventions as assemblages of olitical tramps, and repeated what Ben

on said of them in his last illness. "I

ever," said Benton, "was in a gambling

house, nor in a house of ill-fame, nor in

Presidential political convention, and I

peak of them in the order of my abhor

Strange as it may seem, Stephens is no

electing a President three times as there

was for electing a Congressman that many

Mr. Stephens, although a remarkable

ence of them."

bodily decrepitude, but only of his

rears off. You do not think of his age or

diversion from nervous restlessness. He

dark and piercing, as they still are. He he desires either of them. He want

When your correspondent first began coming to the National Capital, nearly 25 years ago, it was a very different place from what it is now. It was then simply a straggling and unsightly Southern town The streets were mud streets and without a system of drainage. The private dwel ings were for the most part of a very thriftless and unkempt character. Even Penn sylvania avenue, the Broadway of the city, was a bedraggled looking thoroughfare, and very muddy in bad weather. The people had the general characteristhe South as respects a lack of energy. It seemed as if they had no ambition to make the city anything mo than a winter rendezvous, instead of the beautiful capital of a great nation where population, wealth and refinement would me and find a permanent home. The District of Columbia was simply a Southern camping ground, and the slave sen ment of the South was almost as dominan and prescriptive here as at Richmond in licial and social circles.

The war reversed the whole direction and tone of affairs in Washington. The city was practically divided from the South for four years, and during that time the North came here to stay, Not only to stay, but to make the city a place fit stay in for a desirable class of people. The immense aggregation of interests here during the war brought almost every body to Washington at some period of the great struggle, and thousands who came on transient business remained for one cause or another as permanent resident The consequence is that from being a poo scrubby scattered town of rookeries and thrifty city of 150,000 people. It is now a Capital to be proud of. Its streets are simply magnificent. There are none like them in the country. They are broad and thoroughly paved with asphalt, and carriages run over them as smoothly and almost as noislessly as if they were laid with bardened rubber. In fact you would think the paving was a rubber mixture of ne sort. It has that color and texture and has a sort of a spring like rubber feeling when you walk or ride over it. The composition used is made of asphalt, lime and fine gravel, and it fits the broad streets and avenues as compactly and firmly as if it had been poured upon them and allow-ed to harden, which indeed was the case

The draining of the city is on a scale in keeping with its splendid paving. The old surface drainage is no where to be All is cleanliness and tidiness Then, too, the parks, public grounds, cir-cles, squares and all open places, are beau-tified to correspond with the improvements alluded to. Green plants, shrubbery statuary and monuments are to be found in every part of the city. The old-time ses have given place to modern brick architecture, and no city of its size can boast such a number and variety of beautiful residences. The hotels and boarding houses have also greatly improved in number and character, but are not yet what they should be and will be. The latter however, have particularly improved. In stead of old houses, built in early times and by piece meal, with low ceilings and small apartments, dimly lighted and scantily furnished, there are now any number of capacious houses built after the best models in New York, where fam ilies can have home comforts in the shape of large and handsome apartments.

All in all, Washington is a city be proud of and I am not astonished to find that peo ple of wealth and refinement are daily ming here from all parts of the country gain in attractiveness as the nation accumulates population and wealth, and it as an abstract proposition. He was rather time in the future when W cartainly be the greatest and most brilliant thought there was just as much reason for capital in the world.

SOCIAL ATTRACTIONS. g of this future of Washington times, and moreover he went on to say to speak of two social events that neither Washington nor Mr. Jeffer-Speaking of this future of Washington occurred here last week, the reception of son, who are both quoted so much as ex-the Mexican Minister and the Diplomatic amples against a third term, could have of Fairmont. reception at the White House. These been elected a third time; so that no credit were the two events of the season thus attaches to either for declining to be canfar, and are said to have surpassed in extent and brilliancy anything before seen sorvice. He said that to make the fight in Washington. Over a thousand invitatent and brilliancy anything before seen sorvice. The same against Grant on the ground simply of Chronicle, is stopping at the Ebbit House tions were issued by the Mexican minis- anti-third termism, is like resting a case. He was nominated by the Presiden ter, and his guests included all the members of Congress, the heads of depart ments, the principal military and naval issue is with your opponent. He spoke of officers, members of the press, the diplo-stephen A. Douglass in terms of high matic corps, and the leading citizens of praise; and said he was one of the greatest the West Virginia delegation have withmatic corps, and the leading cutteens of praise, and saturation and the leading cutters of praise, and state which is the leading cutters of the leading cutters of praise, and state which is the leading cutters of the leading manner within the limits of even a large who would not deflect a hair's breadth manner within the limits of even a large who would not would not residence was indeed a marvel of art, but from the exact position he assumed on any firmed.

A. W. C. it was done in a style that has never been question, and in connection with Douglass surpassed here, according to the verdict of those who are experienced in Washington the great Kansas-Nebraska agitation in entertainments. The illumination of the 1854-5. spectacle of itself, and the entertainment of the vast throng at the tables in the different rooms was not only of the most on account of the war, by reason elaborate and comprehensive character, of the unsettlement and demoral-but accomplished with an ease that made isation of sound political principles. it in the highest degree enjoyable by He agrees with no body in particular, has everybody present.

The reception in honor of the Diplomatic corps at the President's, the night following was a still larger affair, about what he is, except that he is a nondetwo thousand invitations having been is- script. He claims to follow his convictiona

two thousand invitations having been issued. It was the first time that so large a gathering had ever been feasted at the White House, and it was voted a grand success.

I allude to these occurrences as showing the character of Washington as a great he had time and again shown on certain the character of Washington as a great he had time and again shown on certain feentre of attraction in the winter time for people from all parts of the country. In this respect it has no rival in the country, and as there are so many people of means opening the settlement of the Presidenand to his proming amento against reand as there are so many people of means
who enjoy such a life, the numbers of
those, who for the sake of these social advantages, will make this city their home,

and to his promingiamento against retial question by the last Congress. He
claims to be a patriot and not a partisan,
and seems to heartily despise party servitude. He is not regular in his attendance must constantly increase. at the House. If the weather is fair he is

OLD TIMES AND PRESENT TIMES. I have alluded to the great changes brought up to the Capitol and wheeled in wrought by the war on the general mater- on his rolling chair to a position in front ial characteristics of this city. Great as of the Speaker's chair. He weighs only

are these changes they are not so great as the political changes that have occurred. his great increase in avoirdupous since he first came back to Washington after the pointest angles in a second of the collections of my first visits here every time I go np war, at which time he weighed only 71 to the Capitol, and think over the sce and actors of by gone days. Everything was in the hands of the South in those I have referred above to the thi

question, and this leads me to speak of

days. Southern men and Southern ideas held sway in all depths of the govern- the apparent prevailing sentiment here or ment. The nasal twang of the Yankees the subject among republicans. I had been led to suppose prior to this visit, tha was held in great contempt. New England was the admiration of Washington there was a great deal of Grant sentiment ociety. The Northern Democrats joined among the Republican members, but I d in exciting and exaggerating this feeling. not find it so. On the contrary, I am impressed by all that I have seen and heard It was common to speak of all anti-slavery that they are largely divided between people as fanatics, and to denounce them as not being entitled to decent respect or Blaine and Sherman. in Pennsylvania has not changed this status so far as I can judge. It is now wel ern views were the most aristocratic and understood that Blaine will divide the ashionable views, and were affected by Pennsylvania delegation at Chicago, and all the throng who came here hunting for the remarkable series of answers from leading Republicans throughout Pennsyl office, whether from the North or South. Such men as Jeff Davis, Toombs, Slidell, questions mailed to them by th Hunter and Mason, held sway here along vania, to New York Tribune, shows that the popul with their Northern Democratic allies, lar sentiment of that State is not by an while Seward, Chase, Sumner and John means for General Grant. The same de P. Hale were the despised representatives of the rising tide of "Black Republicanism." velopment is going on in New York State where it is expected Senator Co. The Senate and the House resounded tends to repeat the tactics of Don Cameron daily with threats of disunion, and these Speaking of Conkling, I looked in or hreats were repeated and re-echoed by him at the Senate the other day. He sa Washington society as the orthodox standard of political sentiment. I look in moodily in his seat, looking much olde and grayer than three years ago, when vain for any of these old political leaders last saw him; his right hand was thru With the exception of Alexander across his breast into his buttoned frock H. Stephens, of Georgia, I do not recognize coat, his eyes upon the floor, and his mier a single Southern man who was in Congress that of a man in deep and melanchol in the days of Frank Pierce's administra-This seeming humor may all have been delusion. He may have been think santly of his many visits to od, the Sprague-Chase home this remarkable remnant of the old regime. It was in 1856, in the days when has never been a word between them for old halls of the original Capitol building characterized him as a turkey-gobbler, an stephens was sitting at a wood fire at one gave him such a dreadful excoriation nd of the lobby that surrounded the Conkling is not the man to forgive an floor of the House in those days, quietly enemy, and Blaine is not the man to su noking a cigar, and I was introduced to him by Congressman Albright, who repfor favor at an enemy's hands. As be tween Blaine and Sherman at Chicago esented the Belmont (O.) district at that Conkling will probably throw his in time. He had on a coolored necktie, the for the latter, although he is not two ends of which stood out like prongs personally friendly to Sherman. rom his shirt bosom. His hair was preference will be controlled by the relabanged in front, as it is to-day, his com-

tive degree of his dislike and not becau

Grant, who it is said here, is his first, see

ond and third choice. MATTERS IN CONGRESS The discussions at the Capitol are rate very dull these days. The House goes into Committee of the Whole every day on th new rules, which it is endeavoring to adopt. The progress made is very slo which reminds me that is a short talk tha I had the other day with Gen. Joe Joh ston, of Confederate military fame, now member from the Richmond, Va., district of the House was wasted by discussion that were really useless and very expensive. Johnston himself is a man of very few words and what he says is very poi day on the subject of river improvements speaking from the standpoint of an engi eer, and what he said was considered ser sible and practical by both sides. He is not by any means unpopular on the Re-publican side of the chamber. Popularity in the House does not follow party lines For instance, one of the most popular me in the body is Randolph Tucker, of Virginia, the Confederate Attorney-Genera who can get twice as many favors from the Republicans any day, as Conger, of Michiother Democratic member who visits good deal on the Republican side. He has a great admiration for Garfield, and says if a Republican is to be chosen Pro dent he ardently hopes it will be the Gen eral. And this reminds me that there is a growing feeling here that Garfield may prove a formidable dark horse at Chicago The noble army of office seekers at Washington are very quick to scent Presiden-tial possibilities, and since Garfield's name has been discussed in the newspaper they have turned to him as a rising and fairly deluged him with their cards.

PERSONAL MENTION. . .. I notice by a wedding card on my tab this morning that Mr. Chas. W. Russell, of Wheeling, who holds the position Assistant Librarian at the Capitol, is to be that he favored Grant for a third term, but married on the 19th to Miss Virginia argued at length in favor of a third term Mosby, a sister of the famous Virginia Colonel, now United States Minister to prophetic eye to discern a weak, as I thought, in comparing it to the China. Mr. Russell's mother is spending

see of a Congressman's third term. He the winter here. I have met with quite a number of Wes Virginia representatives in the various departments, among them General Jame M. Ewing, of Wheeling, Captain Pipes of Marshall county, Mr. Richard Burke

hirs. V. C. Thompson, of Louisville. Ky., formerly of Brooke county, is here

on a short visit. Mr. W. A. Hunt, of the St. Clairsville on a demurrer to a bill in equity; it was a as Consus Supervisor for the Eighth Ohio virtual admission that the substance of the district, but in common with all the Ohio nominees was rejected by the Senate or district, and he will accordingly be

MCUNE.-On Monday morning, Pebruary it 1889, at 10 o'clock, Marrias J., wife of William & McCune, in the 4fst year of her age. The funeral will take place from her husband reidence, No 305 Min street, Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Interment at Mount Wood Ceme

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